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When Burnside Stopped Fighting at Fredericksburg

By BRIG. GEN. RUSH C. HAWKINS.

The morning of December 13 the battle of Fredericksburg began and continued at intervals until darkness set in. During a considerable portion of that day while the attacks upon the enemy's center, known as Marye Heights (where stood the famous stone wall), were being made, General George W. Getty, my division commander, and myself were on the roof of the Slaughter house, a high residence at the lower end of the city, named after its owner. From this prominent position our repeated repulses and the terrible destruction of the Union troops had been witnessed.

At about half-past three o'clock the order came for General Getty's third division of the Ninth Corps to make an attack upon that part of the enemy's line to the left of where the principal attack had been made. The order was obeyed but not until I had tried to induce General Getty to protest against its obedience and the further useless waste of life. This attack of our division closed a battle which was one of the most disastrous defeats to the Union forces during the war. The sadness which prevailed throughout the whole army that night can neither be described nor imagined. The surgeons were the happiest of all, for they were so busy that they had no time to think of our terrible defeat.

About nine o'clock that evening I found myself near a building situated upon the main street of the town, where several of the generals of the right main division (commanded by Sumner) had assembled for the purpose of discussing the attack to be made the next morning. When I entered the room these officers were looking at a map upon a table, showing the position of the enemy. There were present Generals Wilcox, Humphreys, Getty, Butterfield, Meade and three or four others. They were seriously discussing the proposed renewal of the attack the next day as though it had been decided upon.

I listened until I was thoroughly irritated because of the ignorance displayed in regard to our situation, and then uttered a solemn, earnest and emphatic protest against even the consideration of another attack. With a pencil I made a rough drawing of the first line then occupied by the enemy, and also showed a second position a little to the rear, to which they could fall back and make a strong stand in the event of their being driven out of their first line. It did not take long to convince these officers that a second attack would probably end more disastrously than the first, and they united in a request that I should go at once to try to persuade Burnside that the attack ought not to be renewed.

It was a cheerless ride in the wet and cold, and through the deep mud

of an army-traveled road that dark night, for I was already weary from much care, watching and loss of sleep, besides I was fully aware of the unpleasant fact that an officer of very inferior rank was bent upon an ungrateful errand to a general commanding one of the largest armies of modern times. But a solemn sense of duty and a humane desire to save further useless slaughter convinced me that any sacrifice of self ought to be made in the interest of the men who were fighting our battles.

I arrived at the Phillips house (Burnside's headquarters across the Rappahannock) about eleven o'clock to learn that I had probably passed General Burnside on the road, who had gone to perfect the details for a second attack. Those present at the Phillips house were Generals Sumner, Hooker (in command of the center grand division), Franklin (in command of the left grand division of the Union army), Hardie and Colonel Taylor. I made a brief statement and explanation of the object of my mission, which deeply interested all present.

They united in a desire that I should wait until the arrival of Gen. Burnside, which occurred about one o'clock. As he came through the door he said: "Well, it's all arranged; we attack at early dawn, the Ninth Corps in the center, which I shall lead in person;" and then seeing me he said: "Hawkins, your brigade shall lead with the Ninth New York on the right of the line, and we'll make up for the bad work of today."

When he had ceased there was perfect silence, and he was evidently astonished that no one approved. With hesitation and great delicacy General Sumner then stated the object of my visit, and suggested that General Burnside should examine the rough drawing then upon the table, and listen to some reasons why the attack contemplated ought not to be made.

After I had explained the enemy's positions, called attention to several pertinent circumstances and made something of an argument, General Burnside asked General Sumner what he thought, and he replied that the troops had undergone such great fatigue and privation, and met with such a disaster that it would not be prudent to make another attack so soon.

General Hooker, who was lying full length upon a bed in one corner of the room, upon being appealed to by General Burnside, sat up and said in the most frank and decided manner that the attack ought not to be renewed that morning. Then a general consultation took place, in which all who were present joined, the result of which was a verbal order, transmitted through me, countermanding the arrangements for a second attack.

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY AND RESEARCH

The U. S. steamer Albatross, with a corps of scientific men on board, has completed an unusually interesting expedition down the Southern California coast, around the peninsula and back to San Francisco.

The results of this voyage of discovery and research were satisfactory to all concerned. The party, in addition to the chief, Dr. C. H. Townsend, acting director of the American Museum of Natural History, in New York, included Dr. J. N. Rose of the National Museum, in Washington, botanist; Dr. Paul Bartsch, also of the National Museum, zoologist; Waldo Schmidt, assistant naturalist of the Albatross, and Messrs. Anthony and Osborn, well known West coast collectors. The cruise lasted from March 1 to April 28.

The party cruised along the coast of Lower California, stops being made at Guadalupe Island, San Benito, San Bartolome Bay, Bay San Cristobal, St. Roque Island, Point Abrojos and many other places, and then passed into the Gulf of California, going as far as Tiburon and Angel de la Guarda Islands.

Elephant Seals Captured.

Several of the adult elephant seals were killed at Guadalupe Island, brought aboard the ship and put in brine, while six of the younger animals, four males and two females, were captured alive. The adult elephant is about twenty-two feet long and has a snout or nose closely resembling the trunk of the elephant, from which it derives its name.

Guadalupe Island offers excellent opportunities for exploration and zoological research. Here also was obtained a collection of fine specimens

scientists, however, were unable to get close enough to capture any of the sheep, but three sets of horns were obtained from local hunters.

Near Angel de la Guarda Island a stick of dynamite was exploded in the water, killing or stunning a large number of fish, which floated to the surface. So many came to the top of the water that it proved a big task to gather in the different specimens.

Tiburon Island also proved a fertile ground for investigation. Many things of unusual interest were found there, the island never having been explored since Admiral Dewey, years ago, made the original survey. He was then a captain, in command of the U. S. S. Narragansett. Important investigations were also made at La Paz, the great gathering ground and shipping place for pearls.

On the way back to San Francisco the ship touched at Santa Catalina Island and at San Jose and many other points along the coast.

Convenience of the Boat.

The Albatross, which belongs to the United States Bureau of Fisheries, is furnished with every facility for an expedition of this kind. Large specimens were easily brought aboard the boat, crated and shipped for packing. Almost no trouble was experienced in taking care of the young elephant seals. It was not found necessary to keep them in a tank or other receptacle.

One carload of these specimens has arrived in New York and the others are expected in a few days.

After the ship reached port, Dr. Bartsch, under orders from the National Museum, started for the Isthmus of Panama, to pursue further research work, but on account of the insurrection in Mexico he was obliged to abandon the attempt and return to Washington.

The botanical collections obtained on the voyage are to be divided between the National Museum and the New York Botanical Gardens. Altogether, more than 200 herbarium specimens were gathered, chief among these being the cacti, many of which were of considerable size and unusual interest.

NEWELL "ALL SET."

During the week E. V. Newell, the expert vulcanizer, has put his new place in the Kapiolani building, Alakea street, in first-class order, and is now "all set" for business. He makes a specialty of tire repairing of every kind, and guarantees his work.

Priest Sure Art Thief Was J. Pierpont Morgan

ROME, July 8.—"But I assure you it was Signor Pierpont Morgan in person," said a sad-looking priest. "He was tall and robust with a pronounced nose. He jingled his money in what appeared to be capacious pockets, and turned his head from side to side in a most characteristic manner. I was sure it was Signor Morgan."

"But," protested the police officer, "did it not strike you that a man like Signor Morgan would never be creeping about at night to buy anything?"

"Well, no," said the priest. "It did not. I knew art collectors would do anything—yes, anything—to obtain treasures."

"But Morgan! What an idiot you are!" said the police officer.

The incidents which gave rise to the foregoing dialogue are interesting. It seems that for centuries a most beautiful and precious bas-relief called "The Madonna of the Adoration" has been in the Church of San Francisco at Pontremoli, near Parma. It represents the Virgin lovingly regarding the child Christ, who is on her knee. The Virgin is in low relief, while the child is in perfect high relief.

The group is enclosed in a kind of frame in marble in the shape of a tabernacle. It has been attributed to Donatello, but is really the work of Agostino d'Antonio di Duecio, one of the most "spiritual" of the sculptors of the "quattrocento," and is valued at over \$20,000.

One day the inspector of art treasures of the district was secretly in-

formed that it was intended to substitute a copy for the original and to sell the latter.

An examination proved that a cast had already been taken, so the canon of the church was at once called for examination.

At first he refused to say anything, but eventually told the following astonishing story:

One night last February two gentlemen came to him after dark, asking to see the bas-relief and saying mysteriously that they were J. Pierpont Morgan and Prince Von Buelow but he must keep their names a secret. They made several appearances after that, and eventually the canon agreed to let them have the treasure for \$6000.

The mysterious character of these visits, he said, did not arouse his suspicion until the last few days, when he had begun to suspect that they were thieves, and accordingly had not allowed them to take the bas-relief away.

A HOME NECESSITY.

There is one medicine that every family should be provided with, and especially during the summer months, viz., Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It is almost certain to be needed. It costs but a trifle and never fails to give relief. Can you afford to be without it? For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

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